



Khalsa Secondary Academy
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Buckinghamshire
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7th October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are holding two Year 6 Virtual Open Evenings:

7pm on Thursday 15th October 2020

and

7pm on Monday 19th October 2020

Log in details will be published on the front page of our website on each of these two days.

As you consider the right secondary school for your child, I would like to share with you several reasons why Khalsa Secondary Academy would be an excellent choice:

GCSE, A Level and BTEC results

We are delighted with the excellent exam results our students achieve each year, at GCSE, A Level and BTEC. Over the past three years the students have achieved incredibly well in their public examinations with a track record of year on year progress that is significantly above the national average. In summer 2020, our Year 11 students achieved an outstanding set of exam results, with a **Progress 8 score of +1.00**. This progress score places Khalsa Secondary Academy comfortably in the top 5% of schools nationally, and amongst the very highest performing schools across Buckinghamshire and Slough. At A Level, our exam results were equally impressive, with a **Value Added score of +0.74**. Again, this compares very favourably with schools and colleges locally, regionally and nationally.

Pastoral care

At Khalsa, we pride ourselves on the highest standards in pastoral care, as we seek to ensure all students are safe, happy, working hard and succeeding. Your child will be allocated to a form group, overseen by their form tutor, who in turn is overseen by the Head of Learning. Any issues, no matter how big or small, are addressed by the pastoral team to ensure your child settles in well and is happy at school.

Safeguarding

In March 2020, Anchored Schools audited the school's safeguarding provision and assessed the school to be compliant and effective in all areas of safeguarding. In September 2020, Buckinghamshire Local Authority audited our safeguarding provision, and came to the same conclusion.

Sikh values

Khalsa has a Sikh ethos and Sikh values, although children of all faiths and none are welcome at the school. The Sikh faith upholds the **values** of honesty, compassion, generosity, humility, integrity, service and spirituality:

Honesty – we seek to say and do what is right and true. We seek to tell the truth, even after doing something wrong.

Compassion – we have concern for, and are sympathetic towards, those who face difficulties and challenges. We aim to help those who are in need in meaningful ways.

Generosity – we seek to be kind and generous, to those we know and to those we don't know. We seek to give of our time, energy and talents to help those who might benefit from our support.

Humility – we have a modest view of our own importance and do not consider ourselves to be better than others. We seek to treat everybody equally well, regardless of their background or status.

Integrity – we can be trusted to be honest and truthful, to say what we mean and to do what we say.

Service – we seek to serve those around us, with care, kindness, patience and respect.

Spirituality – we are concerned for the human spirit or soul, rather than simply with material or physical things.

Our school's priorities

Further to the Sikh values detailed above, we seek to create a school that **strives for excellence**, in a culture of **care, kindness** and **respect**.

Excellent behaviour and attitudes to learning

Khalsa prides itself on developing excellent behaviour and excellent attitudes to learning amongst our students. Khalsa students are typically very polite, considerate of others, hardworking and ambitious to succeed. At KSA we use ClassCharts to log student achievement and conduct. Parents receive real time notifications of their child's achievement and behaviour in class, providing a seamless flow of communication between school and home.

Excellent attendance

We enjoy very strong support from our parents, who work with us on ensuring the excellent attendance of our students every day. Over the whole school year, attendance rates are well above those achieved nationally.

A growing school

The school currently has 540 students on roll, and we are growing year on year to an eventual total of around 800 students in all. We are a relatively small school, which means we will get to know your son or daughter well during their time with us.

Sixth Form growth and the Sefton site

The school's Sixth Form continues to grow, now with 80 students across Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth. Our sixth formers study a wide range of courses and almost exclusively proceed to university. The careers and UCAS support our students receive throughout their two years of study is second to none, and the majority progress to universities in the Russell Group and in the top third of global university rankings. We are very proud of our sixth formers - they are incredible ambassadors for the school and they provide effective leadership for our entire student body. The sixth form students lead our School Council and each one is a trained peer mentor, providing support to students in the lower year groups.

We continue to develop the Sefton site, located adjacent to Pioneer House, for use by the sixth form and the wider school. This will begin with the sitting of public examinations on the Sefton site from Summer 2021 onwards, and will be followed by a range of bespoke teaching, learning and social facilities for the sixth form and the wider school thereafter.

New curriculum at KS3

In September 2020, we launched a new knowledge rich curriculum plan for all students in Key Stage 3, which focuses on meeting and exceeding the demands of the National Curriculum, and on embedding long term memory through the periodic reteaching of topics over time. Our curriculum aims for 2020-21 are:

1. The development of cross curricular literacy
2. The embedding of learning science and pedagogy (especially long term memory)
3. The development of the spiritual and personal development curriculum

Details of our curriculum vision and aims alongside all our curriculum plans can be found in the curriculum section of our school website.

Personal development

At Khalsa we have an integrated personal development curriculum incorporating PSHE, SMSC, Careers and work related learning, Sikh values and British values. The purpose of this curriculum is to prepare students for their future studies, life beyond education and to develop character in all our young people. Our integrated approach is delivered through dedicated PSHE lessons, secular and spiritual assemblies and personal development tutor periods.

Higher ability students

We teach a challenging curriculum to ensure students of all abilities are suitably stretched. With our most able students, we ensure they are fully equipped to achieve the highest grades at GCSE and A Level. Throughout their time with us, students are challenged to push themselves in both the academic and non-academic curriculum. We are particularly adept at supporting students in developing their non-qualification learning and soft skills to support their university and apprenticeship applications. Last year, our two highest achieving Year 13 students achieved AAA and ABB and have gone on to study degrees in Chemistry and Medicine respectively.

SEND provision

We aim to provide the highest levels of support to our students with SEND and we closely work with families to ensure each child's needs are met throughout their time with us. The development of inclusive provision is a key development priority for the school. Over the last ten months the inclusion team has grown with the addition of three new teaching assistants, whilst the department is led by Ms Rowe, an experienced and highly skilled Assistant Head for Inclusion. Ms Rowe has extensive experience of working in a special educational needs setting, collaborating with local authorities and in training other special educational needs professionals.

School library

We are delighted to have opened our new school library, which is stocked with many new and exciting books that appeal to young people. Reading is actively encouraged both in English lessons and throughout the curriculum. Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 visit the library on a regular basis, and take part in quizzes and assessments from the Accelerated Reader programme.

Accelerated Reader

This highly acclaimed reading programme helps develop a passion for reading amongst children and young people, and helps a child's reading age rapidly improve over time. All students in Years 7, 8 and 9 are trained in the use of Accelerated Reader.

Online reading resources

We subscribe to myON, an online reading resource from Renaissance Learning, which gives our Key Stage 3 students access to over 6,000 online books, both fiction and non-fiction.

Remote learning

In 2019 KSA became a Google school, utilising the Google Suite for Schools in the delivery of remote and blended learning as an integral element of our curriculum. All homework and learning resources are set and stored on Google Classroom for students to access remotely from home or in lessons. Several of our staff are certified Google educators and all of our teachers are skilled in the Google Suite of educational applications. Our use of Google Suite for Schools was of particular value during lockdown, when our students were able to interact with teachers and submit work throughout that period and our student engagement figures were well above the national average.

Enrichment

The school offers a full enrichment programme on Wednesday afternoons each week (although not at present due to limitations imposed by the pandemic), and our wider enrichment offer provides students with a wide range of academic, sporting, teamwork and creative experiences, including football, netball, Duke of Edinburgh Award, Combined Cadet Force (CCF), music tuition, GCSE statistics, Spanish club, film club, textiles, knitting, crochet, henna, science club, sports coaching, art club, design club, Amnesty International and debating.

Transition to secondary school

For Year 6 students transferring to Khalsa we provide a full programme of transition events to support their seamless move from primary to secondary school. These events include a series of friendship afternoons, an induction day for children, an induction evening for parents, base line assessment mornings and summer school catch-up classes. Year 7 also have their own dedicated break and lunch time play area providing them with the space and time to settle into their new surroundings and meet new friends within their year group.

Visits to the school

If you would like to visit Khalsa Secondary Academy, please do not hesitate to contact the Headteacher's PA, Mrs Kaur, by email in the first instance. Mrs Kaur's email address is: a.kaur@khalsasecondaryacademy.com

Any further questions

If you have any further questions that you would like answered, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Williams, Deputy Headteacher, by email in the first instance. Mr Williams' email address is: j.williams@khalsasecondaryacademy.com

We will endeavour to answer any questions that you send to Mr Williams in the coming days in one or both of our upcoming Year 6 Virtual Open Evenings in the format of a question and answer session with me. I do hope you will be able to join us at one of our Year 6 Virtual Open Evenings, which will be taking place at **7pm on Thursday 15th October** and at **7pm on Monday 19th October**. *Log in details will be published on the front page of our website on each of these two days.*

With all my best wishes to you and your family.

Yours faithfully,



Chris Drew
Headteacher